

## Child Development Policy Advisory Committee History

The Child Development Policy Advisory Committee is a citizen's review board comprised of appointed members -- parents, public members, family day care and child care center operators -- and representatives of five state departments. The Committee operates through two forums:

- Nine full Committee meetings annually, which are open to the public;
- Subcommittee and workgroup meetings, which are open to participation

Since its inception, the primary role of the Committee has been to provide public policy recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature and relevant State Departments concerning child care and development. The Committee's intent is to encourage child development policies and programs that are long range, developmentally appropriate and socially advanced.

The Child Development Policy Advisory Committee has undergone several organizational changes since it was created as the Governor's Advisory Committee (GAC) on Preschool and Educational Programs in 1965 by the enactment of AB 1331 (Unruh).

The Advisory Committee was initially charged with continually evaluating the effectiveness of preschool programs and reporting at each general session of the Legislature. In addition, according to statute, the Department of Social Welfare, with the advice of the Committee and the consultation of the Department of Education, established maximum cost standards for preschool programs. In 1970, subsidized child care was expanded to include children's centers and child care programs. Consequently, the Committee's purview expanded as well.

The Committee's Role and Mandate is to:

- Advise and assist the Department of Education on the implementation of the State Plan.
- Review the effectiveness of child care and development programs and the need for children's services.

Specifically, the Committee acts to:

- Advise and assist the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of Child Development and Education, the Governor and the Legislature on the development of the State Plan, the implementation of the federal child care and development block grant funds and the review of all child care and development issues.
- Facilitate and provide coordination guidance on local child care planning.
- Review work-related programs and develop new strategies to better meet the child care needs of working families.
- Develop and distribute information on employer supported child care.
- Address issues as they arise in the public forum, related to special needs, licensing, child protection, parental choice, consumer education, local planning, and data collection procedures.
- Identify successful models throughout the State related to both child care planning and programs, such as school-age child care and prenatal substance abuse programs.
- Maintain an active clearinghouse on information that relates to young children including grandparents as parents, teen parents, the role of child care in child abuse prevention, early readiness, and serving alcohol and other drug exposed infants and children through child care.

